

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

051033Z Apr 05

ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CA-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	M-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-00	PA-00	GIWI-00	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/001W	

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1302
INFO AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE
DARFUR COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USLO TRIPOLI
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 000542

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR AF, AF/C, AF/SPG, DRL, INR, INR/GGI, PRM,
USAID/OTI; LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICAWATCHERS; GENEVA FOR
CAMPBELL, ADDIS/NAIROBI/KAMPALA FOR REFCOORDS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [KAWC](#) [CD](#) [SU](#)

SUBJECT: SUDANESE REFUGEES IN CHAD REPORT ONGOING VIOLENCE
IN DARFUR

11. (SBU) Summary: Sudanese refugees crossing the border into eastern Chad say violence continues to rage in Darfur, a claim backed by workers from international and non-governmental organizations and African Union monitors based in Chad and Sudan. Refugees described combined attacks involving Sudanese military and jandjaweed militias, occasionally supported by Antonov aircraft and helicopters to visiting officers from the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL). Refugees who recently fled Sudan believe the violence is part of a Sudanese Government strategy to drive away African Sudanese in order to turn their lands, livestock, and other goods over to Arab Sudanese. The fighting and looting reportedly led to severe shortages of food in Darfur. In what appears to be a new and growing trend, men are often not accompanying their families to refugee camps in Chad, preferring instead to remain in Sudan in order to seek out and join rebel groups fighting the Sudanese Government. Among the refugees and other key players, there is an increasing sense of frustration that the international community has not been able to end the violence in Darfur. End Summary.

DRL INTERVIEWS NEWLY-ARRIVED SUDANESE REFUGEES

12. (U) During a visit to eastern Chad from March 23 to March 31, DRL officers interviewed recently arrived refugees along a 250 kilometers stretch of territory covering the Chadian side of the border with Sudan. The refugees provided dozens of accounts of combined Government of Sudan (GOS)-jandjaweed military operations directed against non-Arab populations of Darfur. From the Breidjing refugees camp in the south to the northern-most refugee camp near Bahai, refugees gave starkly similar reports of joint GOS-jandjaweed attacks often supported by Antonov aircraft or helicopters. These attacks involved the raping of women, the execution-style killing of men and boys, the looting of homes and theft of livestock.

13. (U) Refugees interviewed needed little prompting to describe their ordeal or display the physical wounds of war. Near Bahai, a village chief from Sudan showed DRL officers a ten- year old boy who had reportedly lost part of his hand in an aerial attack 42 kilometers southeast of Karnoi on March 126. The same chief also brought in a woman with shrapnel wounds on her leg from the same attack.

14. (U) Strong parallels run through nearly all accounts collected along the border. The refugees all described events that had occurred within the last month.

--Near the town of Birak, a 32-year old man from the village of Labite told DRL officers of an attack that had just taken place a few days earlier on three villages in which fifteen

children, ten women, and five men were killed. The three villages include Labite, Hormot, and Alona. "We counted 32 government vehicles and about 400 men on horses and camels. There were also airplanes in the sky, but they did not bomb because of the nearby mountains. They took 25 women away and raped them. Fifteen children were burned alive in huts". The villager, and seven other men who nodded in agreement, said that the GOS military and jandjaweed also stole 570 cows and over 2,000 sheep. The attack reportedly took place March 16.

--A 39-year old refugee interviewed in Bahai said "we were hiding in the mountains with our livestock when government soldiers and jandjaweed came and stole our animals. They killed fourteen people in the attack and raped women. We had to leave the women who were gang-raped behind because they are now very sick."

--A little less than 180 kilometers away in the Kounoungo refugee camp, a 40-year old woman described a similar attack which took place several weeks ago. "First came the airplane attack, then people came in vehicles, then came people on horses. A lot of men were killed. They were captured and then shot."

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AU AND NGOS COOROBORATE REFUGEE ACCOUNTS

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15. (SBU) Workers from international and non-governmental organizations as well as the sector commander of African Union Cease-fire Commission in Abeche agree the fighting has intensified in Darfur. At the same time, they note that there has not been a massive influx of refugees into Chad. According to Taban Kokonga, the World Food Program Coordinator in Abeche, Chad, internally displaced persons camps in Sudan are likely taking in more victims who would have otherwise come to Chad. AU Sector Commander in Abeche, Col. Jallo, noted that the AU is considering a force of 10,000 soldiers in Sudan "which is a good indicator that things are not going well". Major Emmanuel Etuka, formerly posted to the Abeche sector and now in Nyala, Sudan, reported to P/E officer on April 1 that "the situation in the general area near Nyala remains grave and something needs to be done immediately." He said that the GOS continues to distribute uniforms, arms, and ammunition to the jandjaweed and People's Defense Force. Meanwhile, the AU Mission in Sudan reportedly intends to deploy more troops to occupy several areas near Nyala.

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CONTINUING GOS ATTACKS SPURS REBEL RECRUITMENT
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16. (U) DRL officers received reports from refugees living in several camps that young men who survived attacks in Darfur were remaining in Sudan to join the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) or Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). This is a significant shift from seven months ago when DRL first conducted interviews with refugees along the border between Chad and Sudan in July and August 2004. At that time, males who survived attacks were hopeful that the international community would quickly put an end to the violence and they would return to Darfur. During the same period, a majority of the refugees were skeptical of the rebel movements. This no longer appears to be the case. In a recent interview in Kounougou, one female refugee stated that "the men are losing hope and believe they must now join the rebels."

17. (U) Refugees interviewed said that the rebels were never in or near their villages prior to the GOS-jandjaweed attacks. The refugees believe that the GOS continues to carry out attacks against civilians as part of a plan to rid Darfur of African Sudanese. A refugee camp in Breidjing, a refugee told DRL officers that "in south western Sudan, you will not find any more blacks, only Arabs. They are tired of seeing their family members killed and women raped." Meetings between DRL officers and members of the SLM and JEM also indicated that the number of new recruits has reportedly increased.

18. (U) Refugees also claim that the AU is not doing enough to end the violence. During several interviews with recent arrivals in Oure Cassoni refugee camp, refugees claimed that AU forces only watched as their villages were ransacked.

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COMMENT
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19. (SBU) The newly-arrived refugees' eye-witness accounts GOS and jandjaweed attacks and use of Antonovs and helicopters during the month of March indicate that President Bashir has not kept the promises made to President Deby and

other African heads of state in N'Djamena in February. Chadian Government officials, Darfur rebel movements, and AU military commanders provide similar accounts of violence carried out by Sudanese forces. There is an increasing sense of frustration among our interlocutors that the African Union and the international community lack the will and leverage necessary to put an end to the GOS's attacks against civilians in Darfur.

10. (U) Khartoum and Tripoli Minimize Considered.
WALL

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